

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Original) Method of delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system, comprising  
selecting a system performance parameter to be optimized,  
receiving at the data input a sequence of discrete data words,  
determining an optimum mode of delivery of the data words to the data output so as to optimize the selected performance parameter, and  
delivering the data words from the data input to the data output in the determined optimum mode.
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein determining the optimum mode of delivery includes determining at least one of an optimum time and sequence of delivery of the data words.
3. (Original) Method according to claim 1, further comprising reordering the data words into a desired sequence before delivering the data words from the data input to the data output.
4. (Original) Method of delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system, comprising  
selecting a system performance parameter to be optimized,  
receiving at the data input a sequence of discrete data words,  
determining an optimum sequence and time of the delivery of the data words to the data output so as to optimize the selected performance parameter, and

delivering the data words from the data input to the data output in the determined optimum sequence and time.

5. (Original) Method of delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system, comprising

receiving at the data input a sequence of discrete data words, and

delivering each data word to the data output without regard to sequence and as soon as possible after the data word is received at the data input, whereby latency is minimized.

6. (Original) Method according to claim 5, further comprising arranging the data words into a preselected sequence before delivering the data words to the data output.

7. (Original) Method of delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system, comprising

receiving at the data input a sequence of discrete data words,

holding at least one of the data words first received at the data input in storage until additional data words comprising the data packet are received at the data input,

delivering the data words from storage to the data output as the additional data words comprising the data packet are received at the data input with minimal time gaps between said data words, and

delivering the additional data words substantially directly from the data input to the data output as soon as possible after the additional data words are received at the data input, whereby bandwidth is maximized.

8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, further comprising arranging the data words into a preselected sequence before delivering the data words to the data output.

9. (Original) Method of delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system, comprising

receiving at the data input a sequence of discrete data words comprising a data packet,

holding each of the data words received in storage until all data words comprising the data packet have been received, and

delivering the data words from storage to the data output in the preselected sequence and with substantially no time gaps between the data words, whereby safety is maximized.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, further comprising arranging the data words into a preselected sequence before delivering the data words from storage to the data output.

11. (Original) Method of delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system having a plurality of data channels, comprising  
selecting a system performance parameter to be optimized for each channel,  
receiving at the data input of each channel a sequence of discrete data words,  
determining an optimum mode of delivery of the data words to the data output so as to optimize the selected performance parameter for the associated channel, and  
delivering the data words from the data input to the data output in the determined optimum mode for each channel.

12. (Original) Method according to claim 11, wherein the mode of delivery is different for at least two of the plurality of data channels.

13. (Original) Method of delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system having a plurality of data sources, comprising  
selecting a system performance parameter to be optimized for each source,  
receiving at the data input a sequence of discrete data words from each source,  
determining an optimum mode of delivery of the data words to the data output so as to optimize the selected performance parameter for the associated source, and  
delivering the data words from the data input to the data output in the determined optimum mode for each source.

14. (Original) Method according to claim 13, wherein the mode of delivery is different for at least two of the plurality of data sources.

15. (Original) Apparatus for delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system to optimize a selected system parameter, comprising  
a data input for receiving a sequence of discrete data words,  
a data output to which data are delivered, and  
at least one data storage element intermediate the data input and data output for storing individual data words for a determined time before delivery to the data output, and at least one path for selectably delivering data to the data output by bypassing said data storage element.

16. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the data storage element is a register.

17. (New) Method of claim 1, wherein the selected system performance parameter to be optimized is latency, and the delivering step further comprises:  
delivering each data word to the data output as soon as possible after the data word is received at the data input, whereby latency is minimized.

18. (New) Method of claim 1, wherein the selected system performance parameter to be optimized is bandwidth, the method further comprising:

holding at least one of the data words of a data packet first received at the data input in storage until additional data words of the data packet are received at the data input;

wherein the delivering step further comprises:

delivering the data words from storage to the data output as the additional data words of the data packet are received at the data input with minimal time gaps between said data words,  
and

delivering the additional data words substantially directly from the data input to the data output as soon as possible after the additional data words are received at the data input, whereby bandwidth is maximized.

19. (New) Method of claim 1, wherein the selected system performance parameter to be optimized is safety, the method further comprising:

holding each of the data words received in storage until all data words of a data packet have been received;

wherein the delivering step further comprises:

delivering the data words from storage to the data output in a preselected sequence and with substantially no time gaps between the data words, whereby safety is maximized.

20. (New) Apparatus for delivering data from a data input to a data output within a system to optimize a selected system parameter using the method of claim 1, comprising:

a data input for receiving a sequence of discrete data words;

a data output to which data are delivered; and

at least one data storage element intermediate the data input and data output for storing individual data words for a determined time before delivery to the data output, and at least one path for selectably delivering data to the data output by bypassing said data storage element.